

**DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARISH OF STOW
COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD IN STOW TOWN HALL ON
MONDAY 6th JUNE 2011 AT 7.30PM**

Those Present: I. Anderson, N. Muncaster, G. Saunders, D. Muir (Chair), S. Aitchison, T. Miller, J. Mushlin, 3 members of the public.

Apologies: I. Peacock, A. McNeilly, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Lackenby.

Guest Speakers: Jonathan Hepton, SBC, Andrew Mackie, Transport Scotland.

J. Hepton and A. Mackie outlined the process of construction of the railway in the Parish of Stow area. The ground investigation works end in June and all properties necessary for the railway have been acquired. The trains will be running in 2014 going to Waverley with no need to change at Newcraighall. There are currently 2 bidders for the railway. The final tender will be the end of 2011-2012. There will be a 2 1/2 year construction phase. The engineering drawings are reference drawings. The reference design shows all land allocated and the line must be built within this land. If the contractor can improve journey time or reduce cost, then they are allowed to. The route is half single-track and half double-track. The Community Council wanted to know what input we will have in the planning of bridges, etc. Will we be notified? J. Hepton will enquire about this. The route will be along the line of the old railway line in the Parish of Stow. River banks have been strengthened.

There was much discussion of our new road taking both pedestrians and cars. Previously, plans were for 2 roads – one using the current access road for pedestrians. It has not been measured how much further pedestrians will have to walk to the bus stop on the A7 from Fountainhall. It is also likely to be steeper. J. Hepton will look into the issue of pedestrians. Is it possible to have bus stops changed or buses going into the village? There will be noise barriers erected for Still Haugh and Stow Primary School. Services will start at approximately 6am and end at approximately midnight. There will be pedestrian access across the river with bridges at Wutherstone and Burnhouse. The points just before Stow will be heated. Questions were asked about disabled access to the station and between platforms. The footpath is not adequate at Stow Station and a lift needs to be provided within the station if there are steps. The main concerns were pedestrian access to and from the A7 at Fountainhall via the new road and disability access at Stow Station.

Police Report – There was a report of a bogus workman offering to work on the road of a house removing moss for £1,850. Police advice is not to accept unwarranted offers of work on property or buy goods from doorstep callers. There was also a report of bank fraud. Advice is to keep your personal details safe. There is also a request to remain vigilant in relation to rural crime and report any suspicious activity to the police.

Minutes of the last meeting – These were proposed by G. Saunders, seconded by D. Muir.

Councillors' Report – The Stow-Lauder road is closed from 20th-24th June from 8am-17.00pm for repairs. There will be pedestrian access. Residents should use alternative routes to the A68.

Historic Scotland – Rory MacDonald will look at the old bridge.

There will be a meeting between council officers, councillors and local residents about the yellow lines on the Earlston Road. Cllr Aitchison has requested that the Community Council should be notified before a decision is made.

There is no change to a weekly collection of rubbish.

There is a problem with dog dirt and dogs running around in Stow, also between 8am and 9am, two dogs are running around Fountainhall. The wardens can come up and deal with things if they know when to come.

Hall Charges – There are likely to be changes in 12 months so they are being left for the time being.

Fountainhall – Chris Hardie has investigated and the only solution to the drainage problem is to put in new drains. Construction work will be done.

SSE – There was much discussion as to how to deal with the £27,000 lump sum for green initiatives which the area will get. Nan will ask whether we can use the money for a green projects fund which green projects can apply to or invest in green projects coming into the area.

Jim Shanks is going to leaflet the area. The distribution of newsletter was organised.

Planning – We were never notified of the application for a container in the park. It has been approved but for a temporary period of 5 years. J. Mushlin is to write to Dorothy Amyes to ask for a weekly copy of the planning list to be sent to her.

Planning – Erection of replacement 80m high anemometer mast.
Erection of dwellinghouse – Andrew Millar.
Erection of a wind turbine – Graeme Hendry.

Community Wind Farm Fund – Chris Wemyss was allocated £48 for a youth club open evening – an under 18 club night on 11th June. The masons are covering the cost of the hire. The allocation was for a public liability licence.

There was an application for equipment for after school football in Fountainhall Park. It was agreed that all money remaining of our initial £1,000 should be allocated to this,
but we could not give the full amount requested.

The Secretary is to send in the completed form to the Scottish Community Foundation to request an additional allocation and is to apply in August for funding for the next year.

Date of next meeting – Monday 4th July in Stow Town Hall at 7.30pm.

ALL COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO EVERYONE. WE WILL MAKE YOU WELCOME AND GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO EXPRESS YOUR VIEWS.